

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 07990 061320Z

53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 SS-15

PER-01 AID-05 ST-01 OC-06 CCO-00 USIA-06 /072 W

----- 023873

R 061138Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0088

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 7990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR

SUBJ: SAFETY STANDARDS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR LINES

REF: ADDIS ABABA 7503

1. AS NOTED REFTEL, EMBASSY HAS BEEN LOOKING INTO EAL OPERATIONS AS THEY PERTAIN TO SAFETY STANDARDS IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT ACCEPTABILITY OF CURRENT EAL MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY PROCEDURES. AS PART OF THIS EFFORT THE EMBASSY REQUESTED FAA ASSISTANCE, WHICH WAS PROVIDED DURING WEEK OF JUNE 29. AN FAA MAINTENANCE INSPECTOR FROM ROME AND AN AVIONICS INSPECTOR FROM NEW YORK INSPECTED EAL'S REPAIR STATION JUNE 30 AND JULY 1 AND ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT EAL REPAIR STATION WILL BE RECERTIFIED. AS POINTED OUT IN ROME 10252 THIS IS BASED ONLY ON EVALUATION OF REPAIR STATION FACILITY AND IS NOT A CERTIFICATION OF ENTIRE AIRLINE PROCEDURE. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH FAA INSPECTOR THAT IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT EAL WOULD FOLLOW UNACCEPTABLE STANDARDS IN MAINTAINING ITS OWN AIRCRAFT GIVEN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE REPAIR STATION AND THE HIGH STANDARD THAT IT HAS MAINTAINED OVER THE YEARS. EAL CURRENTLY HAS 187 FAA CERTIFIED MECHANICS AND 23 FAA CERTIFIED ETHIOPIAN JET

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 07990 061320Z

PILOTS.

2. AS NOTED IN ADDIS 7503 AM CIT EDWARD G. DUCHARME, DIRECTOR, QUALITY CONTROL AND ENGINEERING, STATED FLATLY TO ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR THAT EAL IS AS SAFE TO FLY TODAY AS IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO. HE SAID THAT MORALE WAS LOW OWING TO THE POLICIES OF THE EPMG AND THAT REPAIR WORK TOOK MUCH LONGER THAN BEFORE. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS DID NOT AFFECT SAFETY STANDARDS.

3. AM CIT ROBERT E. MOON, ACTING DIRECTOR FLYING, TOLD ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR THAT OF THE 28 JET-QUALIFIED PILOTS, FIVE ARE AMERICANS. HE SAID CREWS WERE NOT PREVIOUSLY NOR ARE THEY NOW EXCEEDING INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FLYING TIME LIMITS AND THAT EAL NOW HAS MORE CREWS THAN IT NEEDS OWING TO THE RETURN OF ITS TWO 707'S WHICH WERE ON WET LEASE. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT NO PILOT, ETHIOPIAN OR AMERICAN, WAS BEING FORCED TO FLY MALFUNCTIONING AIRCRAFT AND HE DOUBTS THAT SENIOR EAL MANAGEMENT WOULD TRY TO MAKE THEM DO SO

4. BOTH MOON AND DUCHARME SAID THEY WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND EAL TO THEIR FRIENDS AS FAR AS SAFETY IS CONCERNED. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY EMPHASIZED THAT EAL'S RECORD IN MEETING SCHEDULES CONTINUES TO DECLINE.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY WISHES TO GATHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEFORE MAKING FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT USE OF EAL BY OFFICIAL PERSONNEL. EMBASSY WOULD WELCOME ANY ASSISTANCE FROM QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS BOEING AND ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING FURTHER STEPS THE EMBASSY MIGHT TAKE. OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS A MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE FOR OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, EAL'S FUTURE AND, INDIRECTLY, THE REPUTATIONS OF US ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS TWA, BOEING, AND FAA.
HUMMEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR SAFETY, STANDARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS07990
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-1137
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760790/aaaadavd.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ADDIS ABABA 7503
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAFETY STANDARDS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR LINES
TAGS: EAIR, ET, ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006